

For Immediate Release:

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Mayor Reed Announces Clean Tech Legislative Agenda Silicon Valley Leaders Join Call for Legislation to Aid Innovation

Event: Join San José Mayor Chuck Reed, members of the City Council, and leaders from business and labor for the Mayor's announcement of San José's Clean Tech Legislative Agenda and a discussion of how local, state, and federal government can promote innovation and create jobs in the emerging Clean Technology industry. Top priority will be calling on the U.S. Senate to pass the renewable energy tax credit, which is due to expire at the end of 2008.

When: Press Conference – Wednesday, March 12, 2008
1:30 p.m.

Where: San José City Hall, Wing Room 120
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Who: Mayor Chuck Reed, City of San José
Barry Cinnamon, CEO, Akeena Solar
Neil Struthers, CEO, Santa Clara County Building Trades Council
Stu Aaron, Vice President, Marketing and Product Management, Bloom Energy
Justin Bradley, Senior Director for Energy, Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Councilmembers Judy Chirco, Kansen Chu, Pete Constant, Pierluigi Oliverio, and Forrest Williams

Background: Mayor Chuck Reed announced the San José Green Vision on October 5, 2007, laying out 10 ambitious goals for environmental protection and economic development in the City over the next 15 years. One of the ten Green Vision goals is to create 25,000 Clean Tech jobs within the City. Quickly becoming a global leader in Clean Technology, San José is home to numerous environmentally-friendly corporations including solar companies like Akeena Solar, SunPower, SoloPower, Nanosolar, and Fat Spaniel.

"We have the creativity and talent to create the next wave of innovation here in Silicon Valley," said Mayor Reed. "San José's economy needs quality jobs that can't be outsourced, and that's what Clean Tech offers. However, there is much we can do as a city and a region, and there is much the state and federal governments can do to help spur the Clean Tech economy. First, the Senate must pass the renewable energy tax credit. If it expires, solar and other systems will be out of reach for many homeowners – causing negative impacts on our local clean energy industry and the workers who build and install these systems."

The Rules and Open Government Committee will hear Mayor Reed's Clean Tech Legislative Agenda at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, and it will be voted on by the full City Council on March 18.